

written by a Dr. Finley, from Princess Anne, Somerset county, during the revolutionary war, in which, after speaking of the festivities there, he had given an account of a naval engagement between British and American gunboats off the Eastern Shore, where two of the British vessels had struck their colors, and the Americans would have won a glorious victory but for an explosion on one of their vessels. He had never heard of this before, and supposed the incident was scarcely known. The letter had been brought to him when just coming to the bar, by an old man, who was the only survivor on the boat where the explosion occurred, and he (Mr. J.) had procured him a pension. He had a copy of the letter in his possession. Such records as this ought to be preserved, but if the State engaged in it, it might interfere with the labors of the Historical Society.

Mr. Barnes advocated the adoption of the report, and alluded to several most interesting reminiscences in the early history of the State, and the importance of preserving them. The Historical Society was controlled by New England Puritans, who had no sympathy with us, but whose constant effort was to exalt everything pertaining to their own section.

Mr. Stoddert opposed the section. We had no history now. Who would want to write the history of the last six years? He had at one time trunks full of papers belonging to the commander of the Delaware and Maryland forces, but deeming that they were too valuable to be in private hands, he had sent them to the Virginia and Kentucky Historical Societies.

Mr. McKaig said he had been invited once to deliver a lecture before the abolition society of Baltimore on a most interesting historical point in the history of Maryland, but a day or two before the lecture was to be delivered a member of the society, who had obtained his (Mr. McK.'s) information, published it as his own production. He (Mr. McK.) wanted nothing to do with such a society, and yet to it they were asked to commit the duty of collecting our records.

Mr. Jones said he had supposed this society was composed of sons of Maryland, but it seemed from what was said that it was controlled by the New England element.